

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

The selection of Municipal candidates in a great number of Boroughs is now practically complete. This year has given only a limited test to the procedure for selection laid down in the new model rules, because of the late adoption of rules by many Parties. In certain towns however, the procedure has been strictly followed out, and notably in Birmingham all the successive steps have been taken to time and the result of the selections has been most satisfactory. Out of thirty-three contests nearly the total number are now definitely fixed with candidates, and steps are being taken in the remaining few.

Following the national model, a panel of candidates was compiled from nominations received from Party organisations. No fewer than twenty-four nominees appeared on the first list and fifty-four on the second one. Birmingham appears therefore to be in a happy position regarding its resources for Municipal elections.

The number of prize draws run by local organisations must be legion. There are one or two suggestions, however, we would like to make concerning them. In the first place if the confidence of supporters is to be maintained the method of making a draw ought to be known, and be entirely above suspicion. We would like to see some standardised process agreed upon, and universally carried out. We have been present at certain draws which were thoroughly unsatisfactory. In one case we were certainly not satisfied that all the counterfoils of the tickets sold had been got together for the purpose of drawing the winning number, and in two cases the person who was casually asked to put his hand in the hat could see the numbers and choose which he liked. In one of the cases mentioned the person making the draw was actually a ticket-holder. All this is very unsatisfactory, and it would be a far better procedure to print with each book of tickets some statement an-

nouncing the names of impartial persons who would agree to properly conduct and supervise the proceedings. A second complaint concerns the want of publicity for the result. A large number of draw announcements are made in the "Daily Herald," but hundreds of draws are held which secure no such publicity for their result; possibly some are very small and the expense is not thought justifiable. But at least some form of publicity should be provided for which would present a reasonable opportunity for holders of tickets to get acquainted with the result unless it is agreed that winners will be notified by post. We have heard of one or two cases where an application for a prize is almost discouraged and if not claimed a further sale of tickets takes place. This is a somewhat short-sighted policy.

Incidentally the Editor has just won an electro-plated coffee pot as a first prize in a twopenny draw. This event, however, was entirely satisfactory!

Why was it that the month of August was not made a close time for Labour agents and secretaries? At this period of the year when most other individuals escape the madding crowd and hike for seaside places or places beyond the seas, there is for our colleagues an exceptionally busy period with registration. The period for sending in claims and objections is now of course over, and by the time this copy is in the hands of our readers the last opportunity will have passed for making claims of any kind, except in Scotland where the last day for claims is the 22nd August, and the last day for claims as absent voters the 1st September.

The practice regarding the revision sittings differs considerably throughout the country. In places where the political parties each have agents, difficulties that might necessitate a public sitting are frequently accommodated and the work is got over quickly. It is desirable that where there is no agent arrangements should be made for some

officer to represent the Local Party at the sittings. This representative of course should be armed with all the information in the Party's possession regarding necessary corrections of the register. Even if no great amount of registration work has been done the attendance of a representative is beneficial to the Party.

The correspondence which wells in the office of the "Labour Organiser" is of a very varied kind. From all parts of the country come applications for advice. Many letters reach us expressing difficulties; and fortunately most of them tell us how they have been overcome. Some of the letters are very cheery reading, and we regret we have not time to answer them all with that personal interest which we feel in each one. A letter which reached us the other day was from our old friend Mr. A. Glyn Evans, Labour Agent at Greenwich, and though this was certainly not intended for publication we venture to ask pardon for inserting same. It contains cheering news. Greenwich now has the highest individual membership in the country for a single-membered constituency, and the collections from nearly three thousand members are taken entirely on a voluntary basis. We believe there are about fifty collectors in the Division, and the collection is organised much on the lines on which postal deliveries are made. Here is the budget of news from Greenwich:—

"I have pleasure in enclosing you P.O. for £1 for Labour Organisers forwarded. I am pleased to receive my copy each month, which I consider to be most helpful to any Labour Agent. Its pages are good reading and you have my best thanks. You will be glad that our membership is now the highest for single constituencies in the country. We have on our books 2,873 and our goal is 3,000 before the end of the year. We have paid already on 2,700 cards and an additional supply was ordered to meet the new members enrolled. I am sending you a copy of our Greenwich Times for this month. This paper is issued each month with a circulation of 16,000, which are distributed voluntarily by the members in street formation. It is taken from the printer's straight to each distributor by motor car and is distributed without difficulty. The primary task is to

build your organisation for a good distribution and in this direction we have built an excellent organisation.

Its importance to any constituency is tremendous if it is properly handled and the right stuff is inserted. It is a local paper and is doing good work for our party. We are issuing 4,000 booklets of 10 pages in August containing the programme of the Party for the Autumn and Winter Programme, and this will be featured by the football fixtures of the Charlton and Millwall Football Teams. It is the third occasion we have published this booklet, which is in great demand. The cost is defrayed by securing adverts, which represent 75 per cent. of its cost."

The latest duplicated monthly to reach us is the "Astonian," the monthly Journal of the Aston Divisional Labour Party, whose Member is John Strachey and agent Mr. Dan Davies. An interesting departure is that the sheets are duplicated on one side only, and this certainly gives a cleaner and more attractive appearance to the twelve pages of which the journal is comprised. The contents of the number before us contains a signed article by the Member, and a varied selection of other articles and reports.

In somewhat similar size and form, Councillor H. Eastwood, the Labour agent at Bolton, has circulated in his Division some hints to Secretaries. The matter contains varied instructions and information concerning the local business of the Party, registration, membership, collectors and commission, Municipal Elections, membership cards, League of Youth, ward visitation, and similar matters, together with the constitution for the League of Youth Ward Sections now being formed in Bolton. These little hints are of course a sort of supplement to the "Bolton Citizen," and the circulation of this sort of news and instructions leaves the monthly more open for propaganda matter and items of general interest.

HELD OVER.

A Call to Youth—By a Youngster (Frank Smith, M.P.).
The L.O. Guide to Local Government Elections.
Etc., etc.

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REGISTRATION CIRCULARS.

Early Supplies of Register in October.

Under date August 11th the Home Office remind registration officers that in the case of Municipal Boroughs where elections take place on the 1st November, the register to be published on the 15th October should be made available to agents of political organisations at an early a date as possible prior to the 15th October. Registration officers are expected to make arrangements for the printing of the register to be expedited in these cases. Readers interested in Municipal elections should take particular notice of this provision and seek to make arrangements with the Registration officer for direct delivery of the Registers to them from the printers.

The same circular deals with revised arrangements for the registration of naval voters. In future the Absent Voters' Lists are to show the particular depot or division to which each man is attached, and the following is a specimen of the new style of entry. The names of ships are not to be recorded in the Absent Voters' Lists.

Name.	Qualy. Address.	Description and Service, etc.
Brown, James	18 Alton Street P/J 14231, P.O., R.N.
Smith, John	20 Alton Street R.M.B./2448, Musn., R.N.

DUPLICATE ENTRIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS.

An order in Council (published as R.P. 141) has recently been made amending the provisions for dealing with duplicate entries. The new order makes clear that duplicate L.G. entries are to be treated in the same manner as duplicate Parliamentary entries and once expunged at the revision, they will not re-appear in the subsequent electors lists. The order also amends the official notice to the elector in harmony with the change made. The salient part of the order is an amendment to Rule 3 of the Representation of the People Order which is now to read as follows. The words in italics are those which cover the new instructions.

"Where a person is qualified for registration either as a parliamentary elector for any constituency or as a local government elector for any local government electoral area, or any parish, ward or division of any such

area, as the case may be, in respect of more than one qualification and any entry in respect of him has accordingly been removed as a duplicate, the registration officer shall not be required to include that entry in any subsequent electors lists if that person remains qualified for registration as such an elector in respect of the qualification for which he is so registered in the register in force."

AS OTHERS SEE US.

Jack Bailey, Co-operative Party Organiser, Bradford, writes:—I have great pleasure in renewing the subscription for the Labour Organiser and enclose herewith cheque for £2 18s. 6d. and the list of names and addresses of persons to whom the paper should be sent. *My Executive Committee is very conscious of the valuable help which your paper affords and those to whom it is sent testify to the benefit they derive from it.*

N. Garrow, C.C., President of Morpeth Divisional Labour Party, writes:—I have now had the Labour Organiser for six months and am delighted with it. Its assistance to those engaged in Party work is invaluable.

Mr. Frank Stanner, Hon. Secretary New Forest and Christchurch D.L.P. writes:—I should like to say that I appreciate the contents of the Labour Organiser and am going to try and persuade my colleagues in this division to take it believing that it will help organisation here and "make life easier for me."

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Suggestion for Local Editors.

To the Editor.

May I suggest the institution of exchange copies between the editors of the various local Labour papers issued by the respective Labour Party's organisations throughout the country? I will send an exchange copy to any local editor willing to adopt this method.

Yours faithfully,

G. F. KNOTT,
Editor, Rochdale Labour News,
26 Toad Lane,
Rochdale, Lancs.

PRESENT PROBLEMS IN THE CONSTITUENCIES

By THE EDITOR. (THIRD ARTICLE)

Thousands of L.G. Candidates Wanted.

Within the next six months a huge problem must be solved in the constituencies in the way of providing Local Government candidates for the widest front on which we have yet fought. Next March the triennial County Council elections fall due, and if we read the signs aright Labour intends this time to seriously challenge the domination of reactionaries on these bodies. Circumstances call also for an increased number of Municipal contests and District Council candidatures, not to mention the Parish Council elections.

The problem of finding the thousands of candidates requisite for these contests is one to be faced up to without delay. Though in certain of the larger towns preparations for the Municipal Elections are well ahead, and the difficulty is not felt with such intensity, even here it can hardly be said that the lists of available candidates are sufficiently large or striking, and that no difficulty exists. Indeed it is probably true that no Local Party in the country is without its troubles in securing candidates with both the time and qualifications, quite regardless of other considerations such as finance.

The problem is largely twofold. There is an economic problem and also the problem of suitability. Though a candidature if unsuccessful may not involve a large personal sacrifice, a successful candidate may find that the calls of public service make extraordinarily heavy demands both upon his time and pocket. This is particularly true of service on County Councils but it obtains in great force regarding practically every elective office except perhaps the Parish Council.

The economic side of this problem will only be got over by a widespread realisation of the necessity for candidates, and a general readiness for sacrifice on the part of many of our people. Payment for services is not an immediate practical possibility, nor is remuneration for lost time out of local funds a practicability except in a few isolated cases. The immensity of the problem before the party therefore needs to be stressed, which is one of

the reasons why we have called attention to it here, and Parties must be prepared to put the plain issue before their members and tell them that the Cause calls for their help and further unstinted service.

The suitability and qualification of candidates is equally urgent, but a more delicate matter. A man or woman who is to contest a Local Government election at least needs to know something of the problems with which the Council to which he aspires will deal. It is not enough to be merely an exponent of National Labour policy and a critic of Capitalism. Local Government administration is highly technical and the application of Labour principles and policy to local problems requires study and attention, as do these problems themselves.

It is the business of Local Parties to seek to provide their candidates with opportunities for acquiring knowledge. Something has been done this year by the National Labour Party in the way of local conferences on Local Government matters, but there is room in this direction for a great deal of local initiative. Cheap publications which throw light on local government problems are to be obtained and might be supplied to the candidates, and a great deal can be done by fostering the association of candidates with present elected members through the Council groups. Candidates in their own interest also should help the Party by seeking themselves to obtain a mastery of the problems and policies they will have

Extensions of Borough Boundaries.

Not a little complication of local organisation has been caused in many areas throughout the country owing to various extension Acts secured by Municipal Boroughs. The redistribution of Parliamentary seats embodied in the R.P. 1918 Act did not and probably could not map out the country so as to make the boundaries of Parliamentary Boroughs entirely coterminous with Municipal boundaries. It however, went a long way in that direction, but the number of alterations in Municipal boundaries has been growing ever since, and instances are numerous where the

Borough boundary now extends into a neighbouring Division. The result has been that local workers hitherto entirely concerned with the affairs and support of the Divisional Labour Party in a County Division have found themselves with a dual relationship, in association with the Borough for Local Government elections and their old Division for Parliamentary purposes.

Questions have arisen in more or less acute form in most of these places raising the issue as to which D.L.P. the local unit now "belongs to," and owing to differences in the financial arrangements between local units and the D.L.P. in the two areas there is in some cases a substantial inducement to throw off old ties and assume new ones.

So far as Party rules touch this question, Divisional Labour Parties are organised in Parliamentary constituencies, and the Local Party in the added area of a Municipal Borough still "belongs to" the D.L.P. of the Parliamentary Division in which it is situate.

Local Government elections are, however, matters of local concern in County Divisions, and for such purposes the local ward committee should co-operate with the Borough to which its area has been added. Though the problem of adapting the election machine is a comparatively simple one, complications arise in practice out of the new ties that are made. The Borough will have a method of selection and financing candidates which throws the added area into frequent contact with the rest of the town. The Parliamentary Division on the other hand may still have the maintenance of its agent to consider and the development of individual membership together with the building of Parliamentary funds. A clash of interests occurs, and the area under consideration can become a bone of contention between the two Divisions.

It seems to us that where a local organisation or ward committee is related to two Divisions it ought to be granted a recognition rather beyond that which is common to other Local Parties. It is impossible of course to treat the area as an entirely separate unit, but the Parliamentary Division in which it is situate should recognise the unique position, and treat the local organisation on an exceptional basis. On the other hand the Borough Party should recognise that though the area is within the Borough the local organi-

sation has not the same interest in the whole town's affairs as other wards. The terms on which affiliation and representation are to be made is a matter for mutual agreement, and the agreement must answer such questions as the apportionment of members' subscriptions, affiliation fees from the branches in the area, co-operation in social effort, Municipal finance, etc. Altogether the problem is one that calls for sensible readjustment based on local circumstances. Probably the next re-distribution will settle these matters by an extension of the Parliamentary boundaries in the Boroughs.

Local Rules Revision.

The new model rules for Local Labour Parties have for some months past been the cause of some indigestion in the constituencies. The Rules adopted in 1918 were rather less stringent in some aspects and a good deal of divergence from them was permitted, or had crept in. When they were nationally adopted a far smaller number of existing Parties were affected than is now the case.

The new Rules of course affect every local organisation in the country. The tendency to work loosely and contrary to rules had been growing, and in fact it is doubtful if in some Divisions the organisation had ever really adopted the model rules which were applicable to them at all.

It is obvious that with the growth of the Party such conditions were productive of friction, and could not be allowed to continue indefinitely. After eleven or twelve years of building, the time had been reached when stricter supervision over rules was necessary, and the Brighton Conference apparently thought so too, for it adopted the E.C.'s recommendations practically without alteration.

Thus in most Parties a consideration of Rules has taken place. In the main surprisingly little difficulty has arisen, and such as have occurred are concerned principally with the exceptional circumstances of Divided Boroughs and the separate working of industrial sections.

Divided Boroughs differ very much between themselves in size and circumstances, and the lines on which the Local Party has developed. Birmingham is probably the best example of a large divided borough working smoothly (centrally, and locally) along the lines

anticipated by the model rules; such problems as the others possess are of little general interest.

The matter of industrial sections is of wide interest. We frankly admit that in the smaller areas Rule Sets F and G are difficult of operation.

We had hoped that an amendment of the Trades Disputes Act would have removed the necessity for the laboured differentiation between fees and delegates from political and industrial sources. Apparently such is not to be, as yet, and Local Parties therefore who accept industrial affiliations and work also as Trades Councils must accept the reward for trying to do two things at once. They must struggle on with the complicated Rules provided for them between the Labour Party and the T.U.C. In one town at least the attempt has been frankly abandoned, and the Trades Council affiliations dropped—thus allowing the Movement to concentrate on political activity. Perhaps a nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse!

Stationary Trades Unionism.

This brings us to the consideration of a problem affecting the Labour Party's development to which little attention has been given. For some years Trades Union membership has been either declining or practically stationary. What is the reaction of this phenomenon on the building of Local Labour Parties?

The Trades Union nucleus has been the origin and the force on which the vast majorities of Local Parties have been built, and the industrial and political movements have marched hand in hand for many years. But the Trades Union Movement appears to have halted, or at any rate its progress since the downward trend was stopped is very very slow. Taking T.U.C. affiliations as a barometer, they have not yet reached the figure for 1918, and since that time there has been a tremendous increase in the number of registered electors. The difference today between the membership of Trades Unions and the number of electors is appalling, and is at least twenty-four millions.

What one cannot help observing is that in an increasing number of Urban Areas for which the Rules provide a delegate body, this cannot be formed owing to the absence of necessary affiliations, and our further observations on

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this point are that the number of political affiliated organisations is to-day smaller than at any time for the past ten years. The latter circumstance is of course directly due to the operation of the Trades Dispute Act, and though affiliations are less, the effect of the Act has not been to drive a wedge between the two Movements—rather the reverse. This however is beside our present theme, for our object in broaching this matter is to point to the tendency which our political development is taking, and that most decidedly is along the line of developing direct or “individual” membership from the great field of electors.

T.U. Membership Rule.

And while this is so and it is a sign that the political Movement is growing faster than the industrial Movement, the situation, it must be confessed, is complicated by the Party Rule, which requires that every individual member, if eligible, must be a member of a Trades Union. If this clause were taken at its face value it would simply mean that the future inroads of our membership into the huge mass of twenty-four million electors unenrolled in any Trades Union must be subject in its progress to the rate of advance of the Unions themselves. This would be putting the dead hand on the political Movement with a vengeance.

We are often asked about this clause in the Party Rules. We hardly think those who were responsible for this rule at its introduction in 1923 could have thought out the future implications and consequences of their proposal. In vast areas of the country, with which we are acquainted, Trades Union activity simply does not exist. Must our progress in the backward areas be limited therefore to the headway which the Trades Unions make there?

After all, sweet reason must come into its own on this matter. The intention behind the rule we assume to have been to prevent the scandal of wilful non-Unionists controlling the local affairs of our Party, and sitting side by side with Trades Union delegates as the representatives of individual members, or even fighting elections as our endorsed candidates.

It is every Party's duty to ensure that this position does not arise by carrying out the rule. But we conceive it to be no Party's duty to restrict its own development by refusals where the Unions themselves should have got in first. Nor

do we conceive it to be any Local Party's duty to divert their efforts in the first place to recruiting Trade Union membership, rather than recruiting our own. This advice is neither complete nor can it be altogether satisfactory; but the latter, at least, can also be said of the rule, and we would like to see some amendment of it which would recognise that the Party's progress cannot be limited to the rate at which Trades Union membership recovers.

(To be Continued).

A MONEY-MAKING PROPOSITION.

On our front cover will be found the announcement of Messrs. Sodax (1929) Ltd., whose propositions have secured the interest and support of a number of Labour people. We are glad to say that Mr. R. Montford, J.P., who is well known to our readers, is at present handling the Sodax machines and introducing same to Labour Clubs and others who are not yet users. Incidentally, the Sodax machine is a money-raiser of the highest class, and Labour Parties and Clubs enterprising enough to instal a machine and supply members with aerated waters for home consumption can make hundreds per cent. profit practically without risk.

We believe that the machine can be obtained on the payment by instalments plan, and that the patentees court the fullest enquiry. It is also brought to our notice that one of the most recent and best equipped Labour Clubs near London has a Sodax machine at work under the control of a special Committee, who speak in terms of the highest praise of its earning capacity, and of the satisfaction it gives to consumers of its productions.

Here is a proposition infinitely more remunerative than the slot and cigarette machines now installed in many Labour Clubs and offices, and particulars can be obtained on receipt of a post card.

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THE LABOUR PARTY

League of Youth

Monthly Bulletin

EDITOR :

W. ARTHUR PEACOCK.

No. 2 (NEW SERIES)

AUGUST, 1930

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

MEMBERS of the League of Youth will remember that during recent months we have called attention to various facilities which educational organisations attached to the Labour movement offer to the League of Youth. There was the lending library boxes for which the Fabian Society was responsible, the educational facilities of the working women's college, and the scheme fostered by the Workers' Educational Association. In the following article information is given regarding the National Council of Labour Colleges.

We would point out that with the controversy as to whether one organisation is better than another we do not concern ourselves. Our aim in this series of articles is just to provide members with essential facts so that they may take advantage of any scheme that appeals to them.

Subjects We Teach.

"The National Council of Labour Colleges," said Mr. J. P. Millar, the Secretary to me recently, "is entirely financed and controlled by the working class movement. It runs a great bulk of Trade Union educational schemes, carries on educational work by means of classes, correspondence courses, day and week-end schools, branch lecturers and the publication of the magazine *Plebs* and text books which treat the various subjects from our point of view."

In response to my query as to what subjects the N.C.L.C. particularly emphasised, Mr. Millar said, "We deal mainly with social sciences, industrial history, economics, sociology, imperial-

ism, history of modern Europe, and the history of the working class movement." "As our body," he continued, "exists to serve the working class movement and to provide the type of education required by members of the movement it concentrates on branches of knowledge which will help to achieve the aims that Labour has."

As I have mentioned already, the N.C.L.C. has fixed up a number of educational schemes with trades unions and members of the League who have membership of any trades union that has such a scheme will secure education in some cases gratuitously. Members of organisations which pay a local affiliation to the N.C.L.C. of 2d. per member can attend the classes it holds free of charge while individuals who do not belong to any such organisation can secure all the advantages of the movement for a nominal fee.

Social Sciences.

Mr. Millar is a keen supporter of the idea of independent working class education. "No one," he said to me, "would employ a doctor who had not studied medical science. No one would employ an electrician who did not know something about the characteristics of electricity, and yet there are still many people even in our own movement who feel they can be effective members without having studied the social sciences."

There is a good deal of truth in this, and members of the League who want to know more about the N.C.L.C. should write to Mr. Millar at 15, South Park Hill Gardens, Hampstead, London, N.W.3.

Greetings from Austria

By

FELIX KANITZ.

*Chairman of Austria's Socialistic
Youth Movement.*

I AM exceedingly happy to have had this opportunity of visiting your country and meeting members of the Labour Party League of Youth. On the continent we have known all too little about you and we are very anxious that we should know more. We hope that the time is near when you will be able to become attached to our Young Socialist International which is bringing together the young people of all countries. We want you in that International for we are confident that we have everything to gain by association with each other.

A few days ago I went to a London cinema and saw that wonderful film "All Quiet on the Western Front." I was so impressed that I could not refrain from speaking during the interval to the gentleman that sat next to me. "I am an Austrian" I said "how foolish it is to think that a few years ago you and I and all the people around us were said to be enemies, we were fighting each other and adding to the sorrow and conflict of the world." It was madness, and it has helped no one. This film shows how horrible, cruel and gruesome war is and it ought to arouse the young men and women who see it that they will determine that never again shall such a thing happen.

Let Us Correspond.

I believe youth has a big task before it in this connection. It must endeavour to heal the differences between the peoples of the world, it must do all it can to promote international friendship among the nations. I feel that there are special facilities existing in our movement that will help us to achieve this object. In Vienna we have a lot of young people who can speak English and who would rejoice if some of you who read this would correspond with them and tell them of all that happens in your country, and of all that interests you and your movement. Perhaps there are English comrades who can speak German and if we can put them into touch with young people in our country then they will master our language all the more easily.

We have everything to gain by contact with each other.

I think, too, that we ought to try next year to arrange some interchange of visits between our members. Perhaps it could happen that if a young Englishman goes to Austria then his parents should receive in his place a young Austrian, and vice versa. This would help everyone. Perhaps, too, some of you will come to Vienna next summer when the Workers' Olympiad meets.

Before I leave your country I am hoping to visit a number of your branches. I have been to a few already and am impressed with what I have seen and with the young men and women I have met. I have read your literature and am happy in the knowledge that your League of Youth is labouring in much the same way that is our youth movement in Austria. There are differences in methods of organisation but not in outlook or ideal. Our movement is independent of our adult party, we have our own officers and organisation but in all matters regarding policy we agree with our party leaders.

Little Differences.

We realise that while we are free to go about our work in our own way it would be foolish were we not to work in close contact and in harmony with our adult movement. All members of the youth movement over 18 have to belong to the Party as well but there is no age limit of 25 years such as you have. We believe the youth movement has everything to gain by taking advantage of the experience of those men and women who have grown up in its ranks and in our country many youth leaders are about 30 to 35 years old. Another important difference in our organisation is that we have a big movement for young children which is similar in methods to that of the Boy Scout movement. We believe that we must carry our education ideals among the very young people and then when they are old enough they must be encouraged to join our youth movement, and finally to enter into the service of the Party.

As I have said, I rejoice in the thought that I am the first member of the Youth International who should meet members of the Labour Party League of Youth, and it is my hope that this visit of mine will help to bind the young people of Austria and England together in a bond of friendship that will be lasting.

Forgotten Pioneers

Tom Paine.

THE life and work of Tom Paine is a subject which the young student should find fascinating to study for this rebel had an amazing career. He was in turn, a corset maker, customs official, schoolmaster, preacher, revolutionist, pamphleteer and author. His activities gained for him a name throughout the world. His work in support of the French revolution won him a seat in the assembly of that nation. His writings on politics won him an audience in all parts of the globe. His propaganda in support of American independence found expression in that famous declaration. His books were banned, their publishers imprisoned, the printers fined, he only missed the gallows himself by twenty minutes, yet despite all this, he continued fighting the good fight and by so doing won the admiration of even his opponents.

William Blake, who strongly deprecated his attitude towards religion, could not refrain from warning him, when he learned the Crown were leaguering against Paine and intended to arrest him. William Cobbett, who most grossly and unfairly abused Paine, at one period of his life, became a most ardent admirer, and as an act of penance, brought Paine's bones to England after his death. Napoleon said a statue should be erected to him in every city of the world. Abraham Lincoln testified that he could never tire to read about him.

His Writings.

There is not available space in these columns to retell the story of how Paine worked on behalf of the French Revolution, how he championed the cause of the exciseman in our country, nor how he laboured for the Republic of the United States. It is possible only to urge the reader to study the life of Tom Paine and to read his own writings. Several good biographies are available. Moncure Conway's life of Paine is now unobtainable in book shops, but it is in many libraries and might be usefully borrowed. A pamphlet on Paine is published by the Fabian Society, while there is a cheap biography of him written by F. J. Gould. His own writings such as "The Age of Reason,"

"The Rights of Man," are obtainable from the Rationalist Press Association. The first of these two books is a criticism of religious teaching and was written to save religion from the ridiculous position into which it was being drawn by fanatics. Its author is often termed an atheist, but such an appellation is undeserved. Here is a magnificent quotation from this much denounced book, "The word of God is the Creation we behold. It is only in the Creation that all our ideas and conceptions of the word of God can unite. The Creation speaketh an universal language independently of human speech or human language, multiplied and various as they be. It cannot be forged. It cannot be counterfeited. It cannot be lost. It cannot be altered. It cannot be suppressed. It does not depend upon the will of man whether it shall be published or not. It published itself from one end of the earth to the other. It preaches to all nations and to all worlds, and the word of God reveals to man all that is necessary for man to know of God."

Rule of the Dead.

In the same book he writes "Statues of brass will perish. Statues made in imitation of them are not the same statues nor the same workmanship any more than a copy of a picture is the same picture. But print and reprint the thought a thousand times over and with material of any kind, carve it on wood, engrave it on stone, the thought is eternally the same thought in every case." The thoughts of man have become immortal and those words "Independence is my happiness and I view things, as they are, without regard to place or person. My country is the world, and my religion is to do good" have become a source of inspiration to people all the world over.

Had I opportunity I would like to quote from his "Rights of Man," to tell of his duel with Edward Burke, and to outline some of the proposals made in his pamphlets. I will, however, recall one passage which might well be remembered to-day when there seems to be a tendency to follow old paths and to be afraid to break away from tradition and custom. Paine said "There never did, nor never can, exist a Parliament or any description of men, or any generation of men, in any country possessed of the right or power of binding

(Continued on next page).

Hastings Youth Camp.

An Invitation.

The Hastings and St. Leonards League of Youth have not been slow to take advantage of the beautiful countryside and coast around Hastings for camping facilities. For some time now this branch has had a week-end summer camp at Pett Level about 5 miles from the town and situated on the bus route. It is in close proximity to the sea.

This camp has been a popular rendezvous of all members and many jolly times have been spent at the camping ground. The League hires the site and possesses three tents capable of accommodating about 50 members. The tents are only occupied at week-ends and are vacant during the week days. The League is therefore in the happy position to offer a splendid holiday to members of the League who like camping and who want a really happy time. The charge for use of a tent is 1/- per week. Members can get their food at the stores at Pett Level, and they must of course bring their own equipment such as ground sheet, mackintosh, blanket, etc. Further particulars may be had from Mr. Parsons, 2, John Street, Hastings. The branch would welcome comrades too, who can come at week-ends or who can look in at headquarters on any Monday, Tuesday or Friday evenings when debates and club nights are held.

News from Branches

The Labour Party annual conference takes place at Llandudno in October, and we are not a little interested in the references to the League of Youth which appear on the conference agenda paper. We notice that there appears in the name of the Northampton and South Tottenham Labour Parties a resolution "That the League of Youth be given full rights as a party organisation." In view of the keen discussion which has taken place in the League itself upon this subject members will watch with more than passing interest the discussion at the annual conference.

The Surrey Federation always sends out thorough and interesting reports. The latest to reach us has reference to the second annual conference which was held at Croydon recently. We notice that among recommendations passed by the conference was one urging the formation of cycling sections and another

calling for affiliation to the Young Socialist International. The conference was followed by an evening rally at which Paul Williams, Doris Hagger, H. T. Muggeridge, M.P., and Maurice Hackett spoke.

Cambridge.—Considering that our meeting was held in the holiday we did well in securing so attentive and appreciative audience for the gathering at which Dr. Felix Kanitch, Maurice Hackett and Arthur Peacock were the speakers. Maurice Hackett told us of the latest developments in League activities. Arthur Peacock told us of the new Bulletin and pleaded with us to give it adequate support, and Dr. Kanitz gave us an extraordinary interesting picture of the youth movement of his country and in particular a useful description of present conditions in Austria. We are indebted to him for his visit and look forward to meeting him again.

OUR CHAIRMAN.

Members of the League of Youth will join us in extending congratulations to Maurice Hackett upon his adoption as Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Hornsey Division and also upon the occasion of his engagement to Miss Irene Hankin, a member of the Southgate Labour Party League of Youth.

(Continued from previous page).

ing . . . posterity to the end of time. The vanity and presumption of governing beyond the grave is the most ridiculous and insolent of all tyrannies. Man has no property in man, neither has any generation a property in the generations which follow. . . . Every generation is and must be competent to all purposes which its occasion require."

Paine suggested that every thirty years all obsolete laws should be removed from the statute books. His suggestion has yet to be acted upon. The old laws remain on the statute book. New laws are ever being added. The legal fraternity grows and the ordinary citizen looks on amazed and bewildered. It is a mad world indeed!

W.A.P.

NOTICE.

"The League of Youth Monthly Bulletin" is issued by the Press and Publicity Department of the Labour Party. By arrangement with the "Labour Organiser" it is first published in the pages of that journal, from which it is reprinted for wider circulation.

LOCAL LABOUR PARTY ACCOUNTS

A System of Book-keeping (Continued).

So far what has been written meets the case principally of small organisations. There is no sharp dividing line to indicate when an organisation ought to forsake the simple forms of book-keeping and indulge in really scientific systems and accounts. The size of the transactions is one factor and the personal equation another, but while we advocate simplicity, book-keeping, like membership, should be capable of expansion; and that without at any time indulging in a revolutionary change and completely altering one's methods.

We shall therefore try to carry our readers step by step to more advanced stages.

Nothing has yet been said as to how to keep the transactions with the bank. Obviously money paid in to the bank, though it passes out of the hands of the Secretary or Treasurer, is not expended; nor is cash received from the bank a fresh item of income. Yet both transactions concern cash and the cash book seems to be the place in which to record them.

The fact is the cash book we have indicated would not be used in ordinary business. Bank columns are absent. But the small Parties we have had in mind are well advised to go on with the system we have given them and to treat their bank account much as we showed how to treat debts in our last issue. No account of bank payments would appear in the cash book columns, but in another place one would put a record of such payments in ledger form—which in effect would be a duplicate of the entries that would appear in the bank pass-book.

Not that we consider this satisfactory but bank columns are confusing to the novice. Perhaps after reading this article they may appear simpler and the undoubtedly better system can be adopted.

Here there is a specimen ruling of a cash book with bank columns. Sometimes a third cash column is added for discounts but the need for this would be quite exceptional in our case, and we shall not therefore use this style.

In this illustration we have not carried out the analysis columns. These can be understood, and they are not affected in any way by the additional

bank column. Further, when an organisation reaches the bank column stage, it would usually *do away with analysis columns in the cash book altogether*, and the ledger itself will do the analysing as we shall show later.

Date.	Particulars.	Bank	Cash

Now let us turn to our illustrations in the June and July "L.O." on pages 106 and 131 respectively. We are going to assume

(a) that the first three payments on page 106 were banked after receipt, and

(b) that the accounts of the Labour Party and Mr. Summerbell on page 131 were paid by cheque (i.e. by the bank) the others being paid in cash.

Our illustration on page 150 will show exactly how these transactions should appear in the cash book. Note that all the items received, whether received in cash or cheques, are "cash" so far as the cash book is concerned. If however Mr. Pushfulman, for instance, had paid his items direct in to the bank, the latter column and not "cash" would be the correct recipient column.

Though our illustration should be clear enough we will explain the principles on which the bank entries were made. When Mr. Secretary paid the items of £5 4s. od. and £4 6s. od. into the bank, "cash" was obviously the loser. "Mr. Cash" if we may call him so, actually handed over £9 10s. od. He paid the bank. Therefore the item is rightly entered on the expenditure side as a payment to the Bank. But then Mr. Bank received that sum; therefore down it goes as an income item to that gentleman. And there we are, showing proper and clear, the whole of the transaction.

When we examine the totals and the carry-forwards we see exactly just what has happened. Mr. Cash (i.e. Mr. Secretary or Treasurer) has received £13 9s. 11d. He paid accounts for

Dr.

Cr.

Date.	Particulars	L.F.	Bank	Cash
1930				
30 April	A. Pushfulman, Collector, Members' contributions month of April			
5 May	J. Jones, Secretary, N.U.R. Affiliation fee on 400 member			4 c
6 May	Bank Deposit			5 0 0
15 May	L. Evans, Social Secretary, Sale of tickets April whist drive	5	4 c	
16 May	Bank Deposit			4 6 0
23 May	B. Toms, Secretary Collection at Meeting 3 May, 1930	4	6 c	
30 June	A. Pushfulman, Collector, Members' contributions for May and June			3 3 2
				16 9
	NOTE.—For convenience of printing, faint cross lines are omitted here.			
	Total		9 10 0	13 9 11

Date	Particulars	L.F.	Bank	Cash
1930				
5 May	Labour Party, 200 cards			
6 May	Paid in Bank		2 15 c	5 4 c
7 May	J. Summerbell, letter headings			
16 May	Paid in Bank		1 7 6	4 6 c
9 June	Rent of Goodturn Hall (per curator)			15 c
10 June	Women's Section (Secretary's postage for month)			5 0
10 June	Social Committee — Whist Drive expenses (April)			1 3 5
	Balances c/f		5 12 6	1 16 6
	Totals		9 10 0	13 9 11

£6 os. 11d. in cash and cheques, leaving a Cash Balance of £1 16s. 6d. and a Bank Balance of £5 12s. 6d. Mr. Bank has received £9 10s. od. out of which has been drawn £3 17s. 6d., leaving as stated £5 12s. 6d. The net effect of what at first may have appeared to be duplication of entries is merely that every transaction shows clearly both in items and in totals.

In our illustration some of the items are paid in cash and others by cheque, i.e. by the bank. A common practice is to pay all items into bank and all payments by cheque, getting over the necessity for certain cash payments by an omnibus cheque made payable to the Secretary or Treasurer—his cash in hand. Where this is done there is the advantage of the bank's accounts being exactly the same as one's own, but it involves a subsidiary cash book, and subsidiary books will receive next attention.

(To be Continued).

LABOUR GROUPS.

Mr. TOM JONES, Organiser and Agent Caerphilly D.L.P., writes:—

Our Division is composed of two Urban District Areas, viz:—Caerphilly and Gelligaer, both with a good Labour majority.

On Caerphilly Council—

Labour ... 22 ... others 4

On Gelligaer Council—

Labour ... 13 ... others 8

We have Labour Groups functioning on both very successfully. The Divisional Party is responsible for the policy on which local elections are fought, and also the endorsement of all candidatures, each candidate giving a written pledge of loyalty to the Party and also to Group decisions (see Form (B) below).

All motions before being forwarded to the Council are submitted to the Group for discussion, and when a decision has been taken, all members support the majority decision. This eliminates a good deal of Wardism, and enables our members to have a much more intimate discussion on these problems than would be the case without a Group and a discussion. Glamorgan County Council have also adopted the formation of "Labour Group."

The existence of Labour Groups greatly facilitates the work in the Coun-

cil Chamber and assists very materially in making Labour representation effective.

FORM B.

Declaration by the Person Nominated.

I,..... of

..... having been nominated by the.....

and adopted by the.....

Local Labour Party to contest a seat for Labour on the—

*GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL.

CAERPHILLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

GELLIGAER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

hereby seek the endorsement of the Caerphilly Divisional Labour Party as the Official Labour Candidate, and declare that I will stand exclusively as such, and will advocate the Party's programme and policy during the contest. If elected, I will continue to act in accordance with the Party's constitution, faithfully support the Labour Group on the above Public Body, abide by majority decisions of the Group, and will at all times be subject to the Group Whip. I further declare that I am not a member of an opposing organisation.

Signed

Witness

..... day of 193...

*Cross out the words which do not apply.

MONEY IN LEAD PENCILS.

It has occurred to us that some of our readers might be reminded of the good money-making products afforded by the firm of Birkbeck, Pencil Makers of Keswick, whose announcement is always to be found in this paper.

A twopenny pencil is an easy thing to sell, and it is surprising how many can be sold and how quickly, with remarkable good returns in profit to local funds. The pencils supplied are of excellent quality (penholders are also supplied) and there are several alternative styles and qualities all of course lettered with the Local Party's own name or other wording. We ourselves have used these pencils, and no other, for three or four years, and strongly recommend them. Local Parties, Ward Committees, Bazaar Committees and others can legitimately make a very handsome profit in a short time by ordering a stock.



QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

Ordering Election Envelopes.

Question. Dear Mr. Editor. — I should be glad if you would let me know if it is in order for us to get ready our stocks of election envelopes for the next election. We have been offered by one of your advertisers to have all our envelopes delivered to us so that we can get them ready, and pay for them when the election comes. Our candidate has been selected, and we have an election fund, but do not want to spend same. Would it be illegal if we get these envelopes and should we write them up when they come?

Answer. It is perfectly legal for political organisations to lay in stocks of envelopes in readiness for a future election, but at the time of the election they must be taken over by the election agent and paid for by him. The correct course would be for the Party to assume liability and to pay its bill in due course. The election agent would purchase from the Party not from the firm from whom the envelopes were ordered.

It is always a desirable matter to procure election envelopes well in advance of time, for difficulties of supply and delays on the railway with envelopes ordered in a hurry have caused more than one election agent heaps of worry. As to writing the envelopes up, a Party with plenty of money can afford to keep in stock at least one set of envelopes written up from the current register and these would be brought up to date with each new register. Few Labour Parties are however able to do this, and if one set of envelopes only is being bought, and they are intended for the next election, we do not advise any attempt to write up from the current register on which there is no likelihood of a General Election. The new register will come into force on the 15th October but even then, unless the political situation be-

comes very clouded, with the definite expectation of the election before October next year, we do not advise writing up. Start writing up when the election becomes a fair certainty within the following few months. Any earlier attempt may mean a lot of revision and possibly the purchase of other envelopes to replace wastage.

Card Index or Loose Leaves.

Question. I have found the "Labour Organiser" most useful from the first issue purchased. You will be pleased to know that our ward is the best organised in ——. We have ample workers to give not more than seventy-five houses to each worker with a Captain over every six. I am proposing to make a card index for every house in the ward, and as we have a canvass for some purpose or other once or twice every year I propose to keep the cards corrected up-to-date, showing every resident qualified for the vote. What do you think of this?

Answer. Congratulations on the state of efficiency reached. We do not like card indexes for the purpose named. What would be more effective and permanent would be loose leaf books. The Lamson Paragon Supply Co., Ltd., of Paragon Works, Canning Town, London, E.16, have a standard ruling in a broad-side octavo sheet (Ref. No. FR 21) which would suit the purpose. There is a space at the head of the sheet for the name or number of the house and there are fifteen cross rules below in which could be written the voters' names. In ordinary circumstances a sheet would last each house for four or five years, and the sheets are sold ready punched. It should not be necessary to buy binders, for a home-made binder with paper fasteners would be quite serviceable for supplying each worker with his seventy-five sheets. We do not disguise from our friend the fact that there is a good deal

of work involved, but if it is to be done under effective supervision, and done thoroughly, the recorded information would prove most valuable for registration and other purposes from year to year, and a valuable check upon the register.

Secrecy of the Ballot.

Question. I always thought the Ballot was secret, but in — there is a Tory agent, unpaid, who was a personation agent at the General Election. I know he has shown a number of people a register, and has claimed to say he knows how everybody has voted in — because it is marked upon his book. I should be glad if you could give me some advice upon this because I should like to tell him off. Will you also say what is the legal position, and can he be prosecuted. One of our supporters was a blind man and the person mentioned was allowed to be present when he voted.

Answer. Singularly enough our correspondent is not clear on the latter (and most important) point. He does not say whether the Tory has disclosed how the blind man voted. If he has done this then the telling off our correspondent would like to indulge in may as well take place, and the Magistrates could have a hand in the business too.

Regarding the display of the marked register, there is no offence in this. The marked register of course does not contain particulars of how people have voted. It is impossible to obtain this in the polling station. A personation agent may however, mark his register so as to show what persons have applied for ballot papers, and this undoubtedly is the information which the Tory "agent" has been flourishing. Now every officer in the polling station, including the agents must be sworn in to secrecy, and it is an offence to communicate *before the poll is closed* any information as to any voter, who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at that station.

After the poll is closed the disclosure of such information is not punishable, but it is punishable to communicate *at any time* any information obtained in a polling station as to the candidate for whom any voter in such station is about to vote or has voted.

When a blind person votes, the station should be cleared, except for the presiding officer, his clerk and the candidates' agents. It is perfectly true

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that an agent has the opportunity on this occasion of knowing how the vote is cast, because it is more or less publicly cast, but to communicate such information involves him in liability to be imprisoned for a term not exceeding six months.

Sketches for Bazaar Programme.

Question. This year we are going to hold a bigger bazaar than last year when we raised £70, and I am trying to raise at least £25 by the sale of a bazaar programme for which I shall get advertisements. I have already over one dozen half pages booked.

I thought it would be a good thing to drop in five or six humorous sketches as an illustration to our own puffs. Would this be very expensive, and can you give me any advice how I should go about it?

Answer. We are afraid that unless our friend has got some artist at call who would do the sketches for him, and prepare them for the blockmaker a surprise will be in store regarding the bill of costs. Artists' work is generally very expensive, beside which it is no easy matter working to an idea. The blocks, too, would be a considerable item. We would suggest that our correspondent curtails his desire to have his humour illustrated and contents himself with dropping in a few suitable stock illustrations such as are often used by advertisers who write their own matter. A firm who supplies these stock illustrations is the Star Illustration Works Ltd., 15/16, Carlisle Street, Soho Square, London, W. The catalogue issued by this firm contains quite a number of bright and suitable illustrations for a bazaar handbook, and the blocks are by no means expensive.

Unfurnished Lodgings.

Question. I have been claiming two municipal votes for a couple who reside with another family. They have rooms let to them unfurnished. Can you tell me if these people are entitled to same. The Local Officer tells me that they will challenge them as the rateable value of the house is £10. Can you tell me the mode of procedure and where I shall have to appear to claim these votes, and if I am successful I shall claim more next time? This couple have signed the forms them-

selves. I shall very much appreciate an early reply.

Answer. Our correspondent does not say who the local officer happens to be and we hardly think he can mean the registration officer. Anyway, the "local officer" is altogether wrong. Where rooms of any value are let unfurnished both the occupier and wife or husband is entitled to the Local Government vote, and rateable value does not now enter into the matter at all. Our friend should attend at the registration courts of which due announcement will be made, and seek by enquiry to find out whether the claim will be contested. It seems unthinkable that any registration officer would be so ignorant of the law as to disallow a vote on the ground named.

A Director's Qualification.

Question. I shall be greatly obliged if you will give me the benefit of your special knowledge in registration regarding the following.

A person, living outside this constituency, but having business premises in ——— turned his business into a Liability Company about two years ago, and in consequence was struck off the Register of Electors for this division in 1929. Now I find his name appears on the B. List for 1930 to go on the new Register as B.O. and his wife is down as Bw. Ow. for the same premises. The business is still a limited company. I have put in an objection to this claim on the ground that the business is a Limited Company.

Answer. It seems pretty clear that the person mentioned by our correspondent is not qualified to be on the register of electors, neither is his wife. There was a decision some time ago in favour of the Director of a Limited Liability Co., who claimed that he occupied a room for his personal use at the offices of his Company. This claim was allowed on appeal. It is possible that the person indicated by our correspondent is trying the same game, but the registration officer should be very satisfied of the facts before allowing such a vote, and it certainly seems one which should be challenged.

Question. I hope you will help me in a hole. ——— is hoping to be adopted as our Parliamentary candidate and has joined the ——— Local Labour Party.

(Continued on page 156).

HOLIDAY READING

Poetry and Common Life. With a Particular Glance at Shelley.

By LOUIS STRAW, *Labour Agent, S. Derbyshire.*

Let us try and get at what we mean by common life first. At once we drop into verse if not into high poetry. In the "Christian Year" it runs:—

"The trivial round, the common task,
Would furnish all we ought to ask,
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God."

One might pause here to ask why a Bishop should choose to rhyme his sermons. Was it because the idea that rhythm has something to do with memory; and memory of course, is all important in the matter of precept, especially if we are to build habits on precept. It seems when you turn this question about that there was a certain slyness about this Bishop. He would fain cover up his paucity of thought with a ripple of sound. However, this ripple of sweet sound has become drowned in the impecunious groans of the Pharisee at prayer, so let us step to something deeper from the poets in regard to this matter of common life.

"He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small,
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all."

With consummate sweetness and beautiful simplicity, Coleridge here plumbs the depths of the divine in the common. Not so marvellous, perhaps, in the terse use of language as "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin," but still almost beyond comparison in its roundness and completeness. It is worth noticing too, the gentle spirit that breathes through the verse, as well as its intellectual composure.

There is however, a quicker moving—and when you come to consider the breadth of it this is the more astounding—in Burns' "A Man's a Man for A' That." The genial genius of the poet there saw all the dross clinging to humans clean swept away; and it leaps to the one "Far off divine event" with a swiftness and unerring aim, that seems to leave Tennyson musing like a tired old man. Then take this poet's apostrophising to "The Mouse," and "A Mountain Daisy," and that most seemingly far-removed object of poetic inspiration, "The Louse." All these show the tremendous depth of feeling which Burns had for things common. And scattered through his poetry are

lines which show shafts of thought which go to their object like steel to the magnet. It seems as though in his genius things inarticulate leaped to speech and perforce expressed the master link that joins all within the universe.

It will be recalled that Wordsworth and Coleridge essayed to show in their joint adventure with "Lyrical Ballads," that the common things of life were the truest and most desirable media for poetic expression. It was a brave adventure, in many senses great, and now and again touched the true genetic of poetry. In nearly all senses it was pleasurable; and certainly it enveiled with much greater volume the common life of us all, and our common touch with things with the "light that never was on land or sea." I think it is the highest reach of the poet to set the seal of the Divine upon all that is held to be common; and it would be an immeasurable gain if only we could get the much-abused man-in-the-street to do much more than worship the poet. For the poet is the flowering of humanity, and yields his sweets not merely for the pleasures of a high summer's day, but much more for the sterner season's hard reckoning. To catch for us in the meshes of language that makes us sing, and says with ready wit all that we dimly understand and would fain be in ourselves, this is in all reality a divine service, and it is such a service that the poet blesses us with.

From thought to speech, from speech to act, yea, each thought an act rendered with superb artistry, this is the thanks which we common men must give to the poets, these people who dwell in the "light of thought."

Brailsford tell us that we must examine Godwin because he explains Shelley. But I think, not quite. And it is this *not quite* that is the most important. It is true that Godwin as a thinker had great influence with Shelley, and both were the gainers by the fortunate collusion. We common people were certainly the gainers, for Shelley gave wings to ideas which otherwise might have remained heavily earth-bound. When the Philistines had once again apparently conquered, and had restored the Augustan pyramid of society, with

kings at the apex and the sweating multitude at the bottom, then it was good that ideas of political justice, of equality, of fraternity, should be found like drops of dew upon the rich bloom of a poet's life and work. And now with the bitter sweetness of perfect irony we can see that our forefathers were much more mad than the poet whom they chose to call mad, and we are witnessing after much martyrdom of mankind—alike by sane nonconformist as well as conformist—the coming of political justice for women. And presently, she, with man, will march into the much wider liberty of economic freedom, and "These things shall be, a loftier race, Than ere the world hath known shall rise."

It is not of Shelley's great work for political justice and social righteousness that I wish to dwell upon; it is that *not quite* with which Godwin had nothing to do, that I want to inweave into the subject title of my essay.

The Gods which are reputed to make sport of the sorrow and distress of mankind must indeed have laughed when the winds tossed the waters of the sea and sent to the oozy bottom the boat with its rich contents. For Shelley was then beginning to tune his harp with the music caught by his own ear. There are some superb passages in that very uneven poem which Brailsford says closed an epoch, viz., Hellas. Take the first stanza of the closing chorus, "The world's great age begins anew." (Turn to your Shelley, please). In the last line of this stanza what a devastating criticism of man's futile effort for overlordship through the medium of theology and imperialism. But the defect of this stanza for me is not of course, the delight of its music; it is because we have to look back to something lost, and which *perhaps* may be regained. But the forward look is the truer attitude of Shelley, and though he did not live long enough to tread firmly the visionary land of the poet; yet he expressed with lyrical wonder the fact that he was marching thither.

(To be concluded).

(Continued from page 154).

How can this be done seeing that — does not live in the constituency? I thought only electors or people living in the constituency could become members of a Local Party, but if this is not so any carpet bagger can come

along and push himself by joining the Party and attending meetings. I think that when people want to become Parliamentary candidates they should remain outside the constituency until invited to attend a meeting.

Answer. We pass no opinion on the motives which have led to the person indicated joining a particular Party. It is quite natural that a person interested in a constituency should desire to become closely associated with its work, but no person who is not resident in a constituency nor possessing a place of business in it is eligible to join as an individual member, or to serve as a delegate from any organisation. This may cut hard in certain cases, but it is a wholesome rule and in fact it is a part of the national constitution.

It sometimes happens that a Parliamentary candidate is desirous of joining a Local Labour Party. The rules make no exception here, though curiously enough permission is given to a Parliamentary candidate to represent his Division as the delegate of the Party Annual Conference. Courtesy, however, usually permits the attendance of the candidate at Party meetings, though there is no right to do so or privilege of voting.

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